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OGA and DOS review(s) completed.

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No. 0228/70
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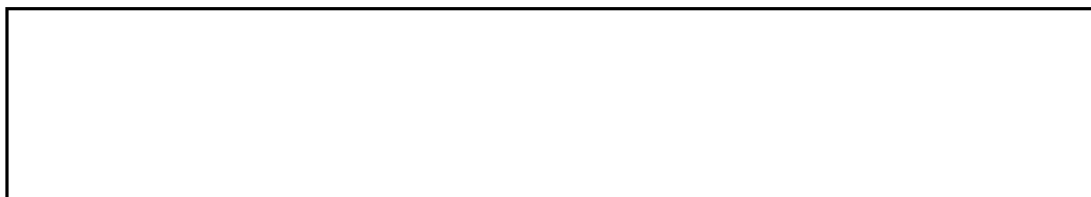
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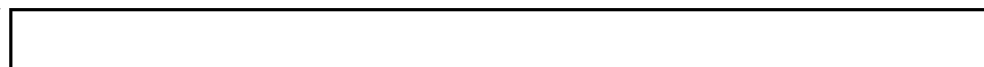
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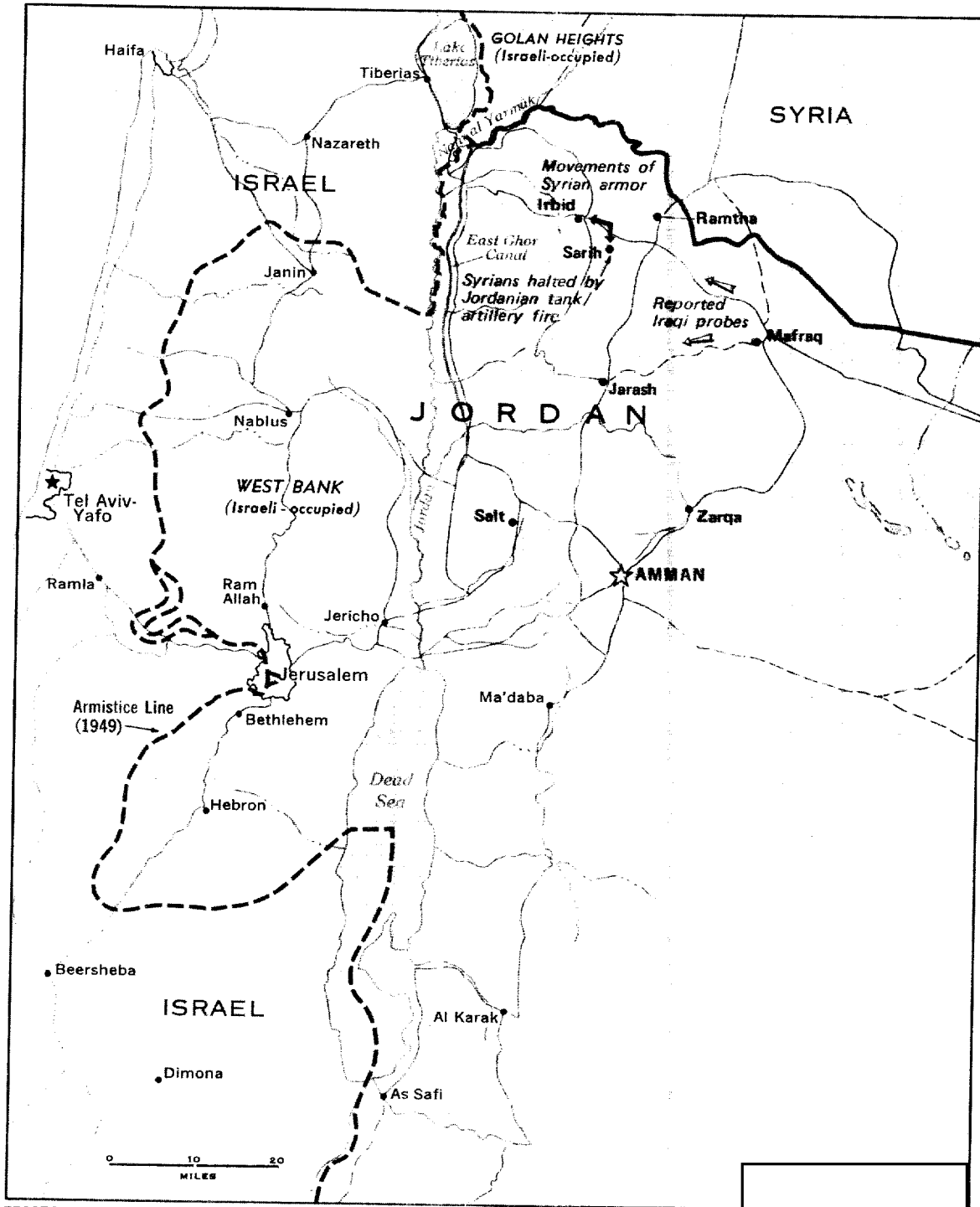
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JORDAN: Current Situation



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[JORDAN: The army seems to be giving a good account of itself in the north.

25X1 [Jordanian armored units are doing much better than had been expected against the Syrians. Yesterday morning some 43 tanks of the 88th Syrian Brigade renewed an attack south toward Sarih and west toward Irbid. After an advance of less than two miles, the Syrians came under Jordanian tank and artillery fire and began to withdraw. [

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25X1 [Syrian attempt to move south from Irbid would be complicated by the hilly terrain; this would restrict tanks to the roads where Jordanian antitank fire could be more effective. If the Syrians tried to mount a flank attack through the Jordan Valley or Mafrag, they would have to pass through concentrations of Iraqi forces, whose attitude remains in doubt.

25X1 [Iraqi tanks advanced westward from Mafrag toward the Ramtha junction [

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25X1 [stopped when they came under Jordanian artillery fire, but to have continued their probes westward yesterday morning. [

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25X1 [So far, the Iraqis have avoided any involvement of real significance, but as the fighting continues they will come under increasing pressure to demonstrate that their highly vocal support of the fedayeen was not mere rhetoric. Radio Baghdad]

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[situation as "dreadful" but said the most pressing need was for food. An estimated 10,000 homeless, 4,000 of whom are said to be close to starvation, are camped out at the Amman railroad station. The Red Cross has begun relief flights from Beirut, but its efforts are hampered by sniping.

There is no further word on the hostages. Talks between Red Cross representatives and fedayeen leaders in Beirut have broken no new ground; British and Israeli representatives said yesterday that they seriously doubt that the commando leaders involved in the talks--although normally influential--are now in any position to secure the release of the hostages.

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Summit Conference Postponed

The Arab summit conference that was to have convened in Cairo yesterday has been postponed indefinitely, possibly because neither King Husayn nor fedayeen leaders were prepared to attend. A delegation composed of Sudanese President Numayri, Tunisian Prime Minister Ladgham, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Saad al-Sabah, and Egyptian Chief of Staff Sadiq arrived in Amman yesterday, however. The four apparently intend to meet with King Husayn and Yasir Arafat in a new Arab League attempt to arrange a settlement.

(Map)]

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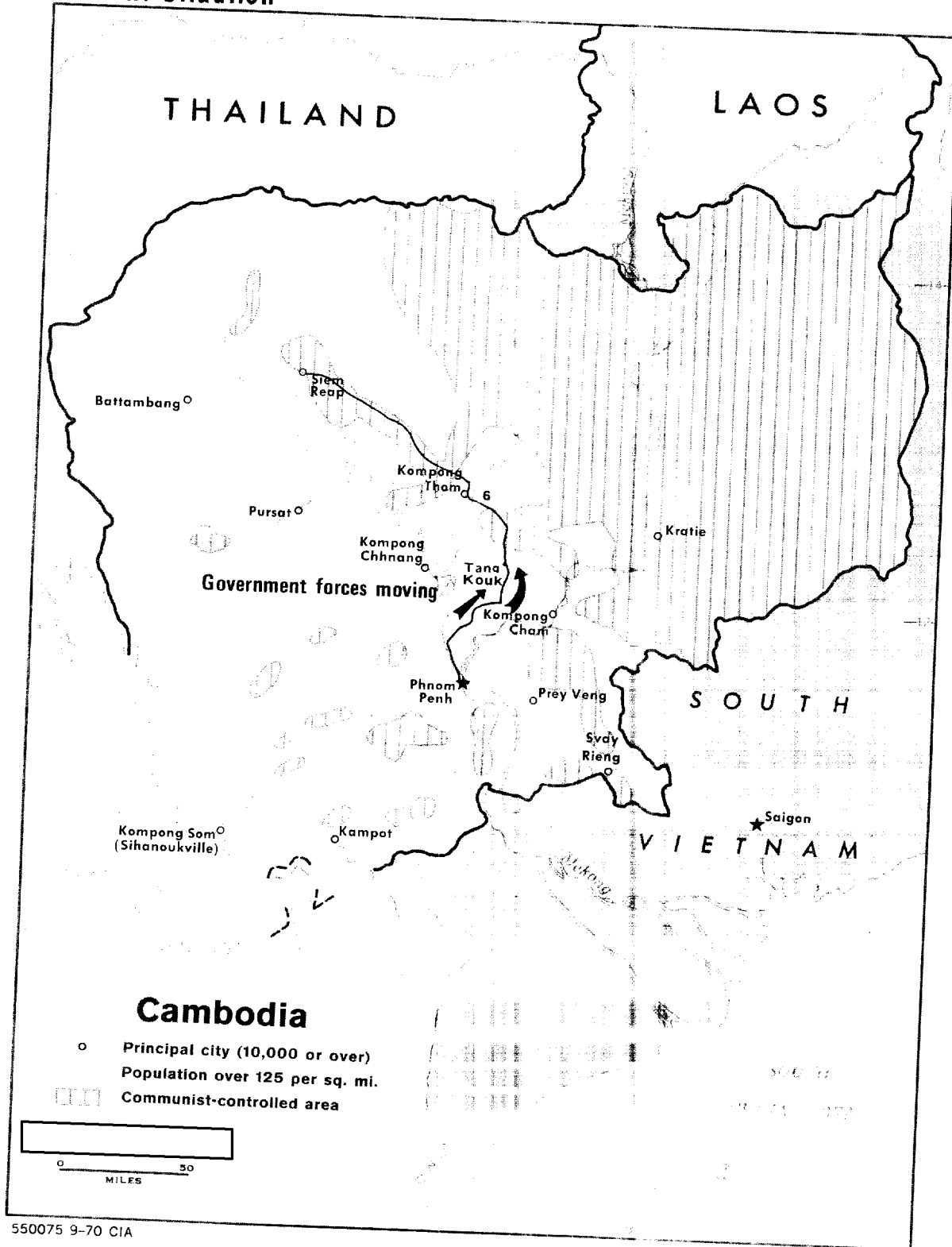
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Current Situation



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CAMBODIA: Although press accounts claim that Cambodian Army elements have retaken Tang Kouk, a US aerial observer was unable to spot any government forces there yesterday. An additional infantry battalion joined the three government battalions pushing northeast from the main column on Route 6. This force made no significant contact with the enemy yesterday, but the main column was harassed with rocket and recoilless rifle fire. Government troops reportedly are now also moving out along the column's west flank.

Meanwhile, the government's second river convoy to Kompong Thom city returned to Kompong Chhnang city without incident on 21 September with 1,200 Vietnamese refugees. The deputy chief of staff of the Cambodian Army told the US ambassador on 20 September that the success of the river operations has temporarily eased the pressure on Kompong Thom and, consequently, there is less urgency attached to the effort to reopen Route 6 to the city.
(Map)

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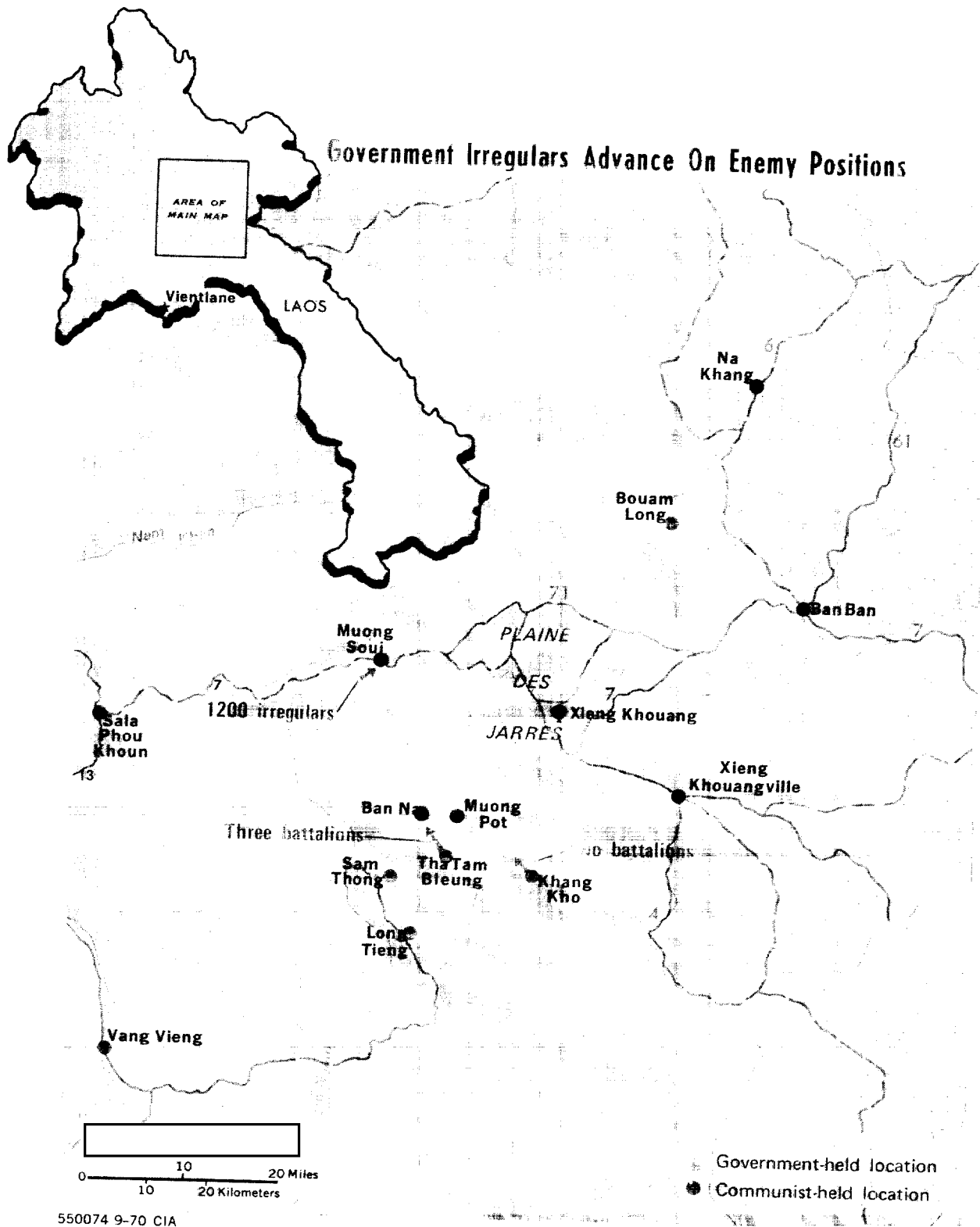
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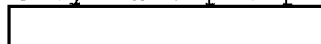
LAOS: Government forces near the Plaine des Jarres are making some headway in what could be the last major effort to improve their defensive position before the rainy season ends.

Three guerrilla battalions have driven to within three miles of Ban Na, a key hilltop position guarding a major Communist infiltration route south of the Plaine. To the southeast, two government battalions which were airlifted to Khang Kho on 16 September are now advancing toward Muong Pot.

The government is also making progress in the Muong Soui area where some 1,200 irregulars are closing in on the deserted town. A substantial force of Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese troops is known to be in the area, but so far has offered only scattered opposition. Although it lies astride Route 7, Muong Soui, as a major Lao neutralist headquarters in the past, has more political than strategic importance.

The purpose of these operations continues to be to forestall, or at least delay, an expected Communist dry season drive toward the Long Tieng complex and west toward the Route 7 and 13 road junction. For their part, the Communists have been determined to maintain a presence south of the Plaine this summer to frustrate what they might have believed to be a threat of the government's repeating last year's major success during the rainy season. This would also enable them to mount any attacks south from advanced positions.

It still seems likely that the Communists will push south and west as soon as the rains stop and they have pre-positioned sufficient supplies.



(Map)

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FRANCE: Premier Jacques Chaban-Delmas' impressive first ballot win in the Bordeaux parliamentary by-election was both a personal victory and a triumph for the Gaullist party.

Although Chaban-Delmas campaigned not as a national Gaullist political leader but as a long-time deputy and mayor who had served his constituency well, the Gaullist Union of Democrats for the Republic (UDR) is claiming the 63.5 percent of the vote as a party victory. UDR secretary general Robert Poujade's characterization of the election as a "success for the Fifth Republic" is echoed in numerous other statements by Gaullist leaders and by the progovernment press.

The premier himself, clearly looking toward the municipal elections scheduled for next March, has termed the election a vote of confidence for his government's policy of "overture"--the invitation to opposition parties and individuals to join the majority in building a "new society." Gaullist success in exploiting this theme with provincial leaders would be particularly significant in view of the fact that the Gaullist party has never succeeded in building firm grass roots support.

The severe setback suffered by leftist leader Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, who polled less than 17 percent of the vote rather than the 25-30 percent he had hoped for, points up starkly the problems of the divided opposition. His last-minute entry into the race was the consequence of his failure to muster non-Communist support for a joint candidate. As a result, the opposition failed even to win the same over-all percentage of votes as it had in previous elections. Servan-Schreiber's options clearly are now more limited and his efforts to rally the opposition around him will be more difficult. He is certain to continue his efforts to challenge the majority at every opportunity, however.

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SWEDEN: The minority Social Democratic government returned to power in the recent parliamentary elections can expect to be buffeted by parties on both the left and the right.

Preliminary computer analyses of the 20 September election returns show that there was virtually no change in the balance between the parties of the left and right from 1968 to 1970, but within each of these groupings, significant shifts did take place. The Communists recovered nearly all the ground they lost to the Social Democrats in 1968 as a result of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, while the Center Party made significant gains at the expense of the internally divided Conservatives.

The Social Democrats, despite the loss of their only postwar parliamentary majority, are confident that they can continue their role as the governing party. There is ample precedent for Communist parliamentary support of the Social Democrats, and both parties realize that the only alternative would be a bourgeois coalition. At the same time, Prime Minister Olof Palme will follow precedent and not invite the Communists into the cabinet.

Although Palme and his party managed to retain power, they do not deny the seriousness of their setback at the polls and are already planning changes in the party machinery and in the political arm of the closely affiliated trade union movement. Neither their election program nor their campaign promises have committed the Social Democrats to any controversial plan of action. As the Swedish economy cools down in the coming months and new collective bargaining agreements are negotiated, however, the new Palme government can expect the opposition parties to make the most of its difficulties as they attempt to enhance their own voter appeal.

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BOLIVIA: The situation remains volatile following student and police clashes that have resulted in casualties on both sides.

Since the initial student protests over the exile of five leftist clergymen began last week, martyrs have been created on both sides and the workers have been incensed by an attempt to arrest labor leader Juan Lechin. The four hostages being held by the students and the unfounded charges in the press that student demonstrators were shot by US Embassy personnel on Monday are contributing to an atmosphere in which violent confrontations could erupt at almost any time.

President Ovando has maintained a tough line regarding the deportation of the clergymen and the need for law and order, but at the same time has announced that security forces will respect university autonomy. Military and police officials are likely to press Ovando to allow them to intervene in the university to free the hostages and avenge the death of the policeman slain on Monday, however. Such a move would assure violent clashes with students and might prompt labor to join the conflict.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Any sign that the President is weakening in the face of student violence could create a political crisis. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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LIBYA: The agreement signed by Occidental with the Libyan Government earlier this month apparently has set the precedent for settlement by Western oil companies. According to recent information, three of the four Western participants of the Oasis Oil Company have agreed to the same increase in the posted price that formed the basis of the agreement with Occidental. As was the case with Occidental, the increased posted price will not be retroactive, but the tax rate will be raised instead. The agreements with Occidental and members of Oasis, which cover about half of current Libyan crude output, will raise revenues by at least \$115 million annually. [REDACTED]

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TRINIDAD-TOBAGO: A.N.R. Robinson, the second-ranking leader in the ruling National Movement (PNM), resigned this week in a continuation of his running battle with Prime Minister Williams. Robinson's surprise move followed a victory for him in party councils last week when Williams was forced to withdraw a controversial bill from congress in the face of growing popular and party opposition led by Robinson. Williams, however, apparently still retains control of the party hierarchy. The PNM general council unanimously "expelled" Robinson after he submitted his resignation. Whether Robinson will attempt to woo rank-and-file support from the prime minister by founding a new party or by linking up with an existing organization is not yet clear. [REDACTED]

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BOLIVIA: The government is scheduled to resume oil shipments from the Chilean port of Arica on 25 September, one day before the Ovando regime's first anniversary in power. This shipment, the result of the recent agreement between Gulf Oil Company and the Bolivian Government, will be the first since Gulf's subsidiary in Bolivia was nationalized in October 1969. The oil may be destined for Gulf's refinery in California. [REDACTED]

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